

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEA-10

/091 W

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O 181631Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6212

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 11783

USIA FOR IPS, IEU, IAA; DEPT. FOR AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG/DR. OWEN REMARKS FOLLOWING  
LUNCHEON AT LANCASTER HOUSE, JULY 18, 1977

OWEN: WE TALKED ABOUT NAMIBIA IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL  
AND ABOUT RHODESIA AND ABOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA.

QUESTION: DO YOU SEE ANY PROSPECTS OF THE AGREEMENT  
WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS OVER NAMIBIA WILL IN FACT BE  
SOLD TO THE U.N.?

OWEN: I'M NOT SURE IF I LIKE THE TERMINOLOGY. WHAT  
WE'RE WORKING FOR IS AGREEMENT BY EVERYONE. IT'S  
EARLY DAYS YET BUT  
OBVIOUSLY WE WOULDN'T BE DOING  
IT IF WE DIDN'T THINK IT OFFERED A PROSPECT OF WHAT'S  
BEEN A DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR DECADES, OF BRINGING ABOUT  
MAJORITY RULE AND GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS.

QUESTION: WILL SWAPO JOIN WITH YOU?

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OWEN: WE HOPE SO. I MEAN WE HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT  
COMMUNICATION, IN TOUCH WITH THEM AND WE HOPE THEY WILL.  
OBVIOUSLY THEY'RE A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT.

QUESTION: AFTER THE CABINET MEETING LAST WEEK, HAVE  
YOU COME UP WITH ANY KIND OF ALTERNATIVE PLAN OTHER

THAN THE ONE YOU WERE WORKING ON?

OWEN: I DON'T THINK IT HAS CHANGED THAT MUCH. NO, NO,  
I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARY TO COME UP WITH ALTERNATIVE  
PLANS, OBVIOUSLY OPTIONS HAVE BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION,  
SOME HAVE BEEN PULLED BY THE ROADSIDE, SOME INCREASED  
THEIR STRENGTH, THE SITUATION CHANGES THE WHOLE TIME.  
THE MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO TRY AND ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED  
SETTLEMENT.

QUESTION: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, CAN YOU SEE A SETTLEMENT  
COMING OUT OF RHODESIA, INSIDE RHODESIA, OR DO YOU  
THINK IT COULD COME FROM OUTSIDE?

YOUNG: I, THAT'S A VERY LOADED QUESTION, I THINK THAT  
THERE'S CERTAINLY GOT TO COME A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA,  
AND I THINK WE TEND TO FORGET THAT A DIPLOMATIC STRUGGLE  
IS EVERY BIT AS DIFFICULT AS A MILITARY STRUGGLE AND  
I THINK WHAT WE HAVE AGREED TO IS THAT WE'RE STILL  
VERY MUCH ENGAGED IN THE STRUGGLE, AND THAT THERE ARE  
STILL MANY ALTERNATIVES, MANY OPTIONS AND OUR GOVERNMENTS  
WILL BE PURSUING ALL OF THEM AS WE WOULD IF IT WERE ANY  
OTHER KIND OF STRUGGLE.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT A PEACE-KEEPING FORCE? WHAT KIND  
OF AN ALTERNATIVE COULD YOU HAVE FOR THAT?

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OWEN: I REALLY DIDN'T.

QUESTION: YOU MUST HAVE TALKED ABOUT SOMETHING TO GO  
TO CYRUS VANCE ABOUT.

OWEN: WE TALKED ABOUT LOTS OF THINGS. WE TALKED ABOUT  
THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE SENSE THE U.N. AND THE MIDDLE  
EAST PULLS VERY STRONG INNAMIBIA, THAT'S WHAT WE SPENT  
A LOT OF OUR TIME OVER. WE DISCUSSED ALL THE VARIED  
OPTIONS BUT I THINK YOU'VE GOT TO RECOGNISE THE  
SITUATION IS MOVING THE WHOLE TIME AND NO ONE IS GOING  
TO BE ADOPTING ENTRENCHED POSITIONS OR CONCRETE PLANS,  
WE'VE KEPT THEM FLUID, WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO IS TRY AND  
MAKE AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH COMMANDS THE  
SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO LIVE  
IN A FREE AND INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. THESE ARE THE  
PEOPLE WE'RE AFTER, BLACK AND WHITE PEOPLE WHO WILL  
LIVE IN ZIMBABWE, AND THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LIVE  
TOGETHER AND IT'S VERY MUCH IN THEIR INTEREST THEY  
RESOLVE THIS VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM, WHICH RELATES  
TO THE TRANSITION BETWEEN THE EXISTING ILLEGAL SMITH

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6213

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REGIME AND A NEW FREELY ELECTED DEMOCRATIC ZIMBABWE  
COUNTRY.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN, DO YOU HAVE ANY INTENTION OF  
NOW GOING TO RHODESIA AGAIN?

OWEN: I WILL MAKE A JUDGEMENT ON THAT WHEN WE SEE HOW  
THE SITUATION TURNS OUT AND CERTAINLY WON'T MAKE ANY  
DEFINITE DECISIONS UNTIL AFTER I'VE BEEN TO THE UNITED  
STATES.

QUESTION: IS YOUR GOVERNMENT PARTICULARLY  
DISAPPOINTED IN THE WAY THE ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP  
IS GOING?

YOUNG: I DON'T THINK SO. I THINK THAT WE ARE A NATION  
OF OPTIMISTS AND I THINK THAT THE KIND OF ENERGY AND  
BRAIN POWER THAT DR. OWEN IS PUTTING INTO THIS CONSTANT-  
LY IS SOMETHING THAT WE CAN'T HELP BUT APPRECIATE AND  
I THINK THAT WHENEVER WE GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET  
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TOGETHER LIKE THIS TO COMPARE NOTES IT'S ALWAYS VERY  
HELPFUL AND I'M SURE THAT DR. OWEN'S VISITS WITH  
SECRETARY VANCE AND THE MONTHS TO COME WILL, WELL, WE'RE  
GOING UP. THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF  
A DEAL BEING MADE WITH MAYBE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND  
THE SMITH GOVERNMENT?

YOUNG: IT WOULDN'T BE NICE TO TALK ABOUT DEALS.

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## Message Attributes

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